

## 1648



# SLICE OF LIFE

Discover, Discuss and Debate



JNet director Rabbi Yehuda Dukes

People of every age and background use JNet to study the weekly Torah portion, discuss the history of Judaism, analyze the *Talmud*, and discover *Kabbala*. The following are short interviews with JNet partners.

*Arthur Finkle is 79 years old, from Langhorne, Pennsylvania. He is an author and has been a JNet partner since 2009.*

I had a *chavrusa* (one-on-one study partner) for 25 years and before he passed away, he requested that I continue learning through JNet.

I learn with Aaron Leib Dukes from St. Louis Park. We are in the process of covering our eighth tractate in *Talmud* and when there is time, Aaron shares with me a talk from the Rebbe on the weekly Torah portion.

When we learn we always try to find lessons in our day to day life. I've been keeping kosher my whole life and I've read books on its reasoning but, recently when I came across a discussion about kosher in the *Talmud*, since I know the background, it gave this *mitzva* (commandment) a whole new meaning for me.

I'm able to say that at this point we don't just have an intellectual conversation but a very strong friendship. Though we live far away from each other, we know each other's families. We sometimes just call each other to ask for advice on things happening in our day-to-day life

*Chaya Silver, from Plano, Texas, is a retired Preschool Teacher and has been a JNet partner since 2018.*

I heard about JNet from Rabbi Mendel Block at Chabad of Plano. I learn with Yehudis Kravitsky from Brooklyn. We are studying the deeper meaning of the morning prayers and we also discuss the upcoming holidays.

I always enjoyed learning but especially with JNet. It makes me feel good. It's not just learning that makes me feel good. It gives me meaning and purpose in my life. The more I learn with my *chavrusa* the more I want to be a better person. I love to share what I learn with my friends. I'm not just bringing meaning into my own life but I am making the world a better place.

I can just say that I love my *chavrusa*! We really connect well and we make sure not to miss a week. JNet is just a real gift!

*Mathew Iofe is 27 years old and lives in Bensonhurst, New York. He is a NYC Crime Investigator and a JNet partner since 2019.*

I stay with a close friend in Crown Heights for Shabbat every week and *daven* (pray) at Empire Shteeble. That is where I heard about JNet.

I currently learn with Dovid Zirkind from Brooklyn. I'm learning how to read Hebrew. JNet has strongly affected me. I'm able to *daven* (pray) now when I go to *shul*, and I generally feel a much stronger connection to my Judaism.

*Meryl Abrams, age 60, lives in Princeville, Hawaii on the Island of Kauai. She has been a JNet partner since 2012*

It was possibly the Chabad rabbi who told me that if I'm interested in learning more, which I was, I should look into JNet. I thought it sounded fantastic, and I signed up! I was amazed at how JNet doesn't charge for their services, I wish everybody would take advantage!

I learn with Malka Philips from Brooklyn. We mostly cover the Torah portions, but occasionally we veer off towards discussing the Jewish holidays, or other insights that she brings in. She's very deep and has a wonderful understanding, and is exceedingly knowledgeable. She's able to bring in stories that really hit home, and bring the Torah to reality. She's just fantastic.

Both my parents are Jewish, but I never really used to feel very Jewish, and I didn't marry a Jewish man either. I was busy exploring other religions, and was generally not very connected

to Judaism at all. But more and more, over the past years, Judaism has started meaning a lot more to me. I'm proud to be Jewish, and I want to share it with my kids too. I've also had a lot of support from our rabbi here, Rabbi Michael Goldman.

JNet is such an amazing organization, how it connects people all around the world. It's really impacted my life, and my son, too, has been affected through my involvement. Shortly before his Bar Mitzva, someone introduced him to Zack Gilbert, and he was fantastic, and there began my son's JNet journey. Zack has brought him a Jewish pride, someone to ask his questions to, especially with everything in this pandemic. There aren't many Jews here, but he's become a real friend to him. Even when he got married and moved to Israel, he takes interest and keeps up the relationship. If my son didn't have someone here like this, he wouldn't really be caring too much for Judaism. He's truly made a difference in my son's life.

*Hymie Genderson, age 51, is from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He has been a JNet partner since 2013.*

I heard about JNet through Rabbi Zalman Bluming, the local Chabad rabbi. I learn with Aron Gleyzer from Brooklyn I'm currently studying Chassidic philosophy. We either learn a Chassidic discourse or a talk of the Rebbe on the current Torah portion.

JNet has brought me a lot closer to Judaism. My level of observance has gone up significantly: from putting on Tefilin, celebrating mitzvot and Jewish holidays, to having a special place in my week for Shabbat. Before COVID-19, I'd go to shul every Saturday morning, something I did not do before joining JNet.

JNet has shown me how small the world is! Rabbi Bluming has a son who was learning in a yeshiva in Westchester at the time. My *chavrusa* and I worked out that he was actually roommates with this boy!

From all of Chabad, the one man who I had been learning with for seven years at that point, just happened to be together with the son of my Chabad rabbi. I found this to be true Divine Providence!

*JNet – Jewish Learning Network, provides the opportunity to take the time to study any area of Torah on any level in any language with a study partner. To become a JNet Study Partner call 347-770-JNet, or email info@jnet.org. A division of Merkaz L'Inyonei Chinuch*

## WHO'S WHO

**Eliezer** was the trusted servant of Abraham, given to him by King Nimrod. Eliezer resembled Abraham physically, though they were not related, and he was in charge of Abraham's household and wealth. He was sent by Abraham to find a wife for Isaac from relatives in Charan. He arrived in a miraculously short amount of time. Also, when he prayed to G-d that he find a fitting wife for Isaac, Rebecca appeared even before he had finished praying. Many years later, Eliezer and his son Alinos helped Jacob prepare for possible battle against his Esau.

## The Rebbe Writes

from correspondence  
of the Lubavitcher Rebbe

18th of Cheshvan, 5724 [1963]

Greeting and Blessing:

I received your letter of the 14th of Cheshvan with the enclosure. You are, of course, quite right in writing that the purpose of education is not merely the increase of knowledge, but the actual training and upbringing to live the Jewish way of life. This is especially true in our day and age, in view of the adverse influence of the environment, etc., which makes it all the more imperative to instill a goodly measure of *Yiras HaShem* [reverence for G-d] into the children. Indeed this is the purpose of the Torah and *Mitzvot* [commandments], as it is written

There can be no difference of opinion as far as the purpose of Jewish education is concerned, which applies everywhere. There can only be a difference of approach and method as to how to attain this goal, and this may vary from generation to generation, from city to city and sometimes even from classroom to classroom.

Another point to remember is that inasmuch as parents are not always permeated with the idea that true Jewish education is truly vital for their children, it is necessary to follow the approach suggested by our Sages, of blessed memory. This is why it is often useful to emphasize the good side effects of Jewish education, until they will eventually understand also the essential aspects involved.

With regard to the question which you write towards the end of your letter, namely, about your present job and your difficulty with *Parnosso* [livelihood], etc., an improvement would depend on those who must be approached and who have the final say. Therefore, it would be well for you to consult fully with such persons that know them personally, and who can judge their reaction to any particular approach.

## MOSHIACH MATTERS

The essence of a person's life is reflected in his breathing processes. Indeed, the Hebrew word for "breath," *neshima* shares the same letters as

May G-d, who feeds and sustains the whole world out of His generous and ample Hand, also give you your *Parnosso* with *Kashrus* and peace of mind, so that you should be able to concentrate on your efforts to strengthen and spread true Yiddishkeit to the utmost of your capacity.

Hoping to hear good news from you,  
With blessing,

15 Teves, 5739 [1979]

Greeting and Blessing!

... Education – in the general "worldly" outlook – is commonly regarded as a process of acquiring formal knowledge, in terms of basic and higher education, which is to be accomplished in the juvenile and adolescent stages of life. Thereafter one is considered "educated," having completed one's course of education.

Needless to say, this is not the Torah concept of *Chinuch* [education]. The Torah is "our life and the length of our days." Just as life itself is a continuous and uninterrupted process from the moment of birth to the last breath, so is Torah *Chinuch* a lifelong uninterrupted process. There can be a change of pace, intensity, and emphasis in the multifaceted aspects of *Chinuch*, depending upon age, activity, etc.; but there is never a time in a Jew's life when he, or she, can be said to have completed their course of *Chinuch*.

In the same vein, Torah *Chinuch* is more than a process of accumulating knowledge. For, since the Torah is "our life," it calls for a constant effort to strengthen and invigorate this life-giving process in the everyday life. Moreover, since the purpose of life is, as our Sages expressed it, "I was created to serve my Creator," each and every moment of the Jew's life must be consecrated to this purpose in constant striving to serve the Creator all the better from day to day. This includes, of course, the Great Principle of our Torah, *V'Ohavto Lre'Acho Komoicho*, which means that together with one's personal advancement in *Chinuch* one must do everything possible to promote the same kind of *Chinuch* among other Jews. Besides, no *Chinuch* can be complete in isolation...

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

*The ninth of Kislev (this year Wednesday, Nov. 25) is the birthday and yartzeit of Rabbi Dov Ber, the second Chabad Rebbe, known as "the Mittlerer Rebbe." Through his explanations of the teachings of his father, Rabbi Shneur Zalman, he brought more Chasidic philosophy into this world.*

*Uniting the physical and the spiritual was embodied in the Mittlerer Rebbe's person, illustrated by the following two examples.*

*The TzemaCh Tzedek (his son-in-law and successor) said, "If my father-in-law's finger was cut, Chasidut would flow out, not blood." The Mittlerer Rebbe's life force was Chasidut.*

*When the Mittlerer Rebbe was arrested on slanderous charges and imprisoned, his doctor told the Russian authorities that they must allow him to teach his Chasidim. He explained: "Just as you give food to prisoners to ensure their existence, so too you must allow him to teach Chasidut, because his life depends on it."*

*The authorities saw that this was the truth and agreed. They allowed 50 Chasidim to enter his prison room twice a week to listen to him deliver a Chasidic discourse.*

*Ultimately, the Mittlerer Rebbe was released on the 10th of Kislev, one day after his birthday. But, unfortunately, he and his Chasidim were unable to celebrate the first anniversary of his release. For, the Mittlerer Rebbe passed away on the 9th of Kislev, his birthday, at the relatively young age of 54.*

*Concerning the Mittlerer Rebbe's day of Redemption, the Rebbe said, "The Mittlerer Rebbe's redemption will lead to the ultimate expression of G-dliness in the world which characterize the revelations of Moshiach." May this take place immediately.*

Shmuel Butman

L'ZICHRON CHAYA I MUSHKA  
לזכרון חיה' י מושקא

The name of our publication has special meaning. It stands for the name of Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka Schneerson (obm), wife of the Rebbe.



Published by  
Lubavitch Youth Organization  
1408 President St., Brooklyn, NY, 11213  
phone 718 778 6000

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